Message

From: Gunning, Paul [Gunning.Paul@epa.gov]
Sent: 7/1/2021 4:59:18 PM
To: Stenhouse, Jeb [Stenhouse.Jeb@epa.gov]; DeFigueiredo, Mark [DeFigueiredo.Mark@epa.gov]; Harvey, Reid [Harvey.Reid@epa.gov]; Harvey, Reid [Harvey.Reid@epa.gov]
CC: Grundler, Christopher [grundler.christopher@epa.gov]; Kocchi, Suzanne [Kocchi.Suzanne@epa.gov]; Banks, Julius [Banks.Julius@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: White House releases CCS plan

Thanks for sharing this Jeb! Great job Mark ☺

From: Stenhouse, Jeb <Stenhouse.Jeb@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 1, 2021 9:25 AM
To: DeFigueiredo, Mark <DeFigueiredo.Mark@epa.gov>; Harvey, Reid <Harvey.Reid@epa.gov>; Gunning, Paul <Gunning.Paul@epa.gov>; Harvey, Reid <Harvey.Reid@epa.gov>
Subject: White House releases CCS plan

Pretty positive press on the CEQ report to which Mark contributed!

https://www.eenews.net/energywire/stories/1063736281

White House releases CCS plan

Carlos Anchondo, Lesley Clark and Kelsey Brugger, E&E News reporters Published: Thursday, July 1, 2021

Environmental justice concerns are a key focus for the Biden administration as it looks to accelerate the deployment of carbon capture, utilization and storage, according to a briefing document from the White House Council on Environmental Quality that was obtained by E&E News. Francis Chung/E&E News

The White House released a report yesterday outlining a series of actions the federal government could take to speed up the development of carbon capture and storage across the United States, even as the technology faces scrutiny from environmental justice advocates and the left flank of the Democratic Party.

The report, prepared by the Council on Environmental Quality and mandated by Congress, said the Biden administration is committed to the "responsible development and deployment" of carbon capture, utilization and storage (CCUS), but added the technology will only yield desired benefits if deployment is "well-designed and well-governed."

To ensure "efficient, orderly, and responsible deployment," the 84-page **report** identified a range of areas where CEQ could work with relevant federal agencies, including through the collection of air emissions data associated with projects and potential opportunities for the federal procurement of products made using carbon dioxide.

Other areas include more research into the impact of carbon capture projects on communities with environmental justice concerns, the report said, noting that the "scale of implementation" likely required to meet climate goals "understandably raises concerns about public health and environmental impacts."

If the United States wants to hit its climate targets, CCUS deployment "should increase tenfold" over the next decade, the report said, citing research.

While CO2 pipelines are critical to greater deployment of the technology in the future, there's "currently no pipeline network that supports significantly expanded CCUS and large-scale carbon sequestration across all industrial sectors," it added.

Congress tasked CEQ with preparing the report after it passed the Utilizing Significant Emissions with Innovative Technologies (USE IT) Act last year, which broadly supports carbon utilization and direct air capture research and calls for multiple interagency reports (***E&E Daily***, May 21).

Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.), who had backed legislation that mandated the report, applauded the findings.

"This first report recognizes the critical importance of carbon capture and pipeline infrastructure in meeting any credible climate targets, which is why the technology has enjoyed bipartisan support in Congress," Capito said in a statement. "We must deploy CCUS for all sources — power plants, factories, and direct air capture."

Melanie Kenderdine, a principal at the Energy Futures Initiative think tank, also cheered the conclusions at an event the initiative held yesterday to unveil its own blueprint for building out more infrastructure, like pipelines, to move and store CO2 (***Energywire***, June 30).

"I'd like to give a big shoutout to the Biden administration and its CEQ," she said, noting many similarities between the two reports.

Brett Hartl, government relations director at the Center for Biological Diversity, said reports to Congress can be fairly poorly done, but "this is not one of them."

Yet some Republicans said the report fell short. Alex Herrgott, a former Hill staffer who led the Trump Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council, said the document "misses the mark on identifying targeted solutions for the permitting confusion suppressing increased investment CCUS projects."

He continued: "[W]e don't need more acronym heavy reference documents, we need a 'real world' game plan to get shovels in the ground."

However, long-time backers of the technology praised CEQ's emphasis on engaging with communities that would be affected by retrofits or new projects.

"I think the key message is really the reframing that we need rapid scale-up, but it must be done in a well-governed and community-oriented way to develop trust from communities as well as safeguarding well-paying jobs," said Lee Beck, international director of carbon capture at the Clean Air Task Force.

The environmental impact of carbon capture projects has garnered increased awareness in recent months as President Biden has called for 40% of his administration's clean energy investments to assist disadvantaged communities.

In April, environmental justice advocates pushed back on provisions within Biden's American Jobs Plan that called for building "next generation industries in distressed communities" and instead pressed for investment in renewable alternatives (***Energywire***, April 5).

In May, the president's White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council released a report that listed carbon capture and direct air capture among the "types of projects that will not benefit a community" — a claim that sparked pushback from CCS proponents (***Energywire***, May 17).

Hartl at CBD said, "I think everyone accepts at some level we're going to have to do [carbon capture, utilization and storage].

"It's going to have to be part of the strategy, but if we are in a world where we have to build out that much CCUS to solve the climate crisis, we've pretty much failed the climate crisis."